

1104.0 - CURF Microdata News, May 2010

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IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the May edition of the CURF Microdata News.

We've had some important CURFs released recently including the reissue of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Expanded CURF 2004-05 and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Expanded CURF 2002. Please see the article below for more information about upcoming CURFs.

A big thank you to the organisations who hosted us during our recent round of client visits. Feedback indicated that the information sessions were well received. We intend to visit more of our CURF clients throughout the year.

Regards,

Todd Sweeting
Assistant Director
Microdata Access Strategies

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CURF RELEASES

This part of the CURF News describes recent and forthcoming CURF releases. You can also keep up to date with CURF releases by subscribing to our free Email Notification Service or the ABS RSS Feed. To apply for access to any of the following please use the MiCRO online CURF application system web page.

Microdata: Multipurpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no. 4100.0.55.001) **Expected release: June 2010**

This Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) from the 2008-2009 Multipurpose Household Survey provides statistics on four topics: Crime Victimisation, Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Retirement and Retirement Intentions and Household Use of Information Technology. The CURF also contains other socio-demographic information such as educational qualifications, occupation and industry of current job and personal and household income.

Users are able to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their individual specifications. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure integrity of data, optimise its content and maintain confidentiality of respondents. They include removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

The Expanded CURF is only available through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL). A technical manual explaining data content, technical details and conditions of use is available through Technical Manual: Multipurpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no 4100.0)

For information on applying for access to ABS CURFs, see the CURF Microdata Entry Page.

Microdata: Survey of Education and Training, Basic CURF, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 6278.0.55.002) **Expected release: June 2010**

The Survey of Education and Training Basic CURF contains data items on the following topics: participation in education and training; completed qualifications; level and field of educational attainment; details of training courses completed; training outcomes; difficulties, barriers and employer support to education and training.

Users are able to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their individual specifications. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure integrity of data, optimise its content and maintain confidentiality of respondents. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

The Basic CURF is available either on CD-ROM or accessible through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). A Technical Manual explaining data content, technical details and conditions of use will be provided with the file.

Microdata: Survey of Education and Training, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009 (cat. no.

6278.0.55.004) **Expected release: June 2010**

The Survey of Education and Training Expanded CURF contains data items on the following topics: participation in education and training; completed qualifications; level and field of educational attainment; details of training courses completed; training outcomes; difficulties, barriers and employer support to education and training.

Users are able to tabulate, manipulate and analyse data to their individual specifications. Steps to confidentialise the dataset are taken to ensure integrity of data, optimise its content and maintain confidentiality of respondents. This includes removing any information that might uniquely identify an individual, reducing the level of detail for some items and collapsing some categories.

The Expanded CURF is only accessible through the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). A Technical Manual explaining data content, technical details and conditions of use will be provided with the file.

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AWARENESS RAISING PROGRAM

Recently the Microdata Access Strategies and Support Section (MASS) visited clients as part of its Awareness Raising Program.

MASS visited CURF client organisations in Victoria on 13-15 April and Queensland on 4-6 May. The visit included a CURF Microdata info session to existing users and those interested in finding out more about CURFs. The visits were very successful with some very useful feedback received.

Further client visits are planned for the other states and territories this year.

If you have any questions about the information sessions or would like one for your organisation, please contact MASS at microdata.access@abs.gov.au or call us on (02) 6252 7714.

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NatStats 2010 Conference

15-17 September 2010 Darling Harbour Sydney

Registrations Now Open!

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is pleased to announce that registrations are now open for the NatStats 2010 Conference.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, through its initiative, the National Statistical Service, aims to improve the use and understanding of statistics for Australians.

NatStats 2010 will be held from 15 - 17 September 2010 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. The conference aims to build on the enthusiasm generated by the inaugural NatStats conference held in 2008.

The overall theme for the conference is "Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia", which will explore drivers of economic and related social change that are shaping Australia's progress. Conference speakers will highlight the importance of statistics in understanding and responding to these challenges.

As a participant in the NatStats 2010 Conference, you will have the opportunity to contribute your ideas for improving the Australian statistical system for the future.

Dr Ken Henry, Secretary to the Treasury, will deliver the opening plenary address at the conference and the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop AC, Director of the Graduate School of Government at the University of Sydney, will deliver a presentation focused around improving the wellbeing of Australians.

Prof Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, will also be speaking as part of a detailed panel discussion titled, "Measuring progress: from theory to practice", alongside Dr David Gruen, Director of the Macro-Economic Group at the Treasury.

Other NatStats 2010 speakers include Ms Jane Halton PSM, Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing who will speak on the role of statistics in health; and Mr Paul McClintock AO, Chairman of the COAG Reform Council, who will be speaking about the measurement of disadvantage, inequality, and social inclusion. In addition, Ms Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director of the OECD Statistics Directorate, and Mr Phil Lowe, Assistant Governor (Economic) of the Reserve Bank of Australia, will together examine some of the changes we can expect to witness in the global economy and the implication for Australia.

For a full list of confirmed speakers, program and registration information, please visit <http://www.nss.gov.au/natstats2010> or email natstats@nss.gov.au.

NatStats 2010 Event Details

Date: Wednesday 15 - Friday 17 September 2010
Venue: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour
Cost: \$795 Early Bird (Until July 16 2010)
\$995 Full Fee

Register now and save!

Follow NatStats 2010 on Twitter



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RENEWALS

It's that time of the year again - the Microdata Access and Strategies Section (MASS) is about to embark on the annual CURF renewal process.

The CURF renewal process ensures that organisations have an up to date list of all users and CURFs. This process is also a great opportunity for Contact Officers to advise the ABS of any unwanted CURFs to be returned or users who have left the organisation.

MASS will be contacting your organisation shortly to ensure that information such as:

- the Responsible Officer and Contact Officer details are still current,
- the name of organisation hasn't changed,
- the address of the organisation is correct,
- the list of current CURFs users is still valid, and
- if each user still requires access.

We look forward to speaking to you throughout this process and appreciate your assistance.

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THINGS TO REMEMBER

CHANGING ORGANISATION

Did you know that if you change Organisations, you do not have to re-register to MiCRO? You simply need to advise your current Contact Officer that you are leaving, so that they can organise to deactivate your access to CURFs held by their Organisation. Then, when you wish to join your new Organisation, you Apply to join your new Organisation - it's that easy! If you happen to forget your password, we can reset it for you.

DEED OF UNDERTAKING

When you Apply to join an Organisation, you must complete and return the Personal Deed of Undertaking before you apply for CURFs.

Providing this Deed is a vital part of the process. If we have no Deed, we cannot process any CURF applications for you.

The best guide to assist you in all the steps to gaining access to CURFs is Managing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files(CURFs): A Step by Step Guide, Aug 2009 (cat. no. 1406.0.55.004). Take the time to read it if you are unsure of the CURF application process.

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BUSINESS LONGITUDINAL DATABASE

The ABS undertook consultation sessions with users of the Business Longitudinal Database (BLD) CURF in March and May. Consistent feedback received during these sessions was that analysis of variables formatted as character is problematic. As a result, the CURF was re-released in late April with some data items changed from character to numeric format.

We would like to thank those BLD CURF users who were able to attend one of the consultation sessions. Your feedback was valuable and will be considered while work on the next release of the BLD CURF takes place (planned for late 2011). Additional feedback, including that from users who were unable to attend a session, can be provided via email to innovation.technology@abs.gov.au.

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CURF Microdata News is a quarterly newsletter created by the Microdata Access Strategies Section at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

CURF Microdata News is aimed at informing new and current Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) Microdata users about issues and developments in the access to, and use of, CURF Microdata. The newsletter periodically covers topics such as available and forthcoming microdata releases, terms and conditions of access, responsible access to microdata and best practice tips, pricing, microdata research outputs, frequently asked questions, and information about applying for ABS CURF microdata.

Interested readers are also invited to visit the CURF Microdata pages on the ABS web site for relevant up-to-date information about each of these matters.

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